

Glen Ellen Forum
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2017

Chairman Michael Furlong called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The first order of business were Committee reports.

Tourism Committee: Michael Wray

Michael presented the Tourism Impact Survey results. The committee received 79 online replies and 22 paper replies. Vacation rentals emerged as a major community concern. The results are posted [online](#).

Melissa Dowling addressed the committee's next step. The group will collect and distill information from the county about vacation rentals, and put this information on the Forum website, including how to report an issue with a vacation rental, noise level regulations, and quiet hour information. The group will explore ways to educate both vacation rental owners and neighbors about what the regulations are.

Eldridge/SDC Committee: Vicki Hill

The committee has contacted Supervisor Susan Gorin and secured a seat on the Sonoma Coalition. Three points for the Forum to consider:

- We, as a community, need to be proactive not reactive. We need to solicit and provide information rather than wait and react for ideas from the state/county
 - Redevelopment of the SDC is the most important issue facing our community. New land uses on the property will affect all aspects of Glen Ellen: traffic, business, etc. The Forum needs a strong voice.
 - The committee and the Forum need to build consensus.
- Next steps:
- The committee will meet with Susan Gorin to formalize interaction between the Forum and the county.
 - The committee will continue developing goals, building on the visioning process started in 2015 and staying mindful of guiding principles established by the state. Redevelopment has to be economically viable. Once goals are drafted, they will be brought to the Forum for discussion.
 - The committee will synthesize land use proposals and will present to the Forum for discussion.
 - The committee will explore ways to engage and inform the community, including a letter inviting people to get involved, enhancing education about the redevelopment, and starting the consensus-building process.

Sonoma Land Trust will present at the June 5th meeting addressing open space issues on the Eldridge property.

Forum members are encouraged to visit the website for [documents](#) and links to information posted by [Transform SDC](#).

Traffic & Safety Committee: Stacey Vilas

The committee has secured a radar detector and collected information on speed patterns in the community.

Information collected on speeding on Madrone Road was taken to the county. A radar speed sign was requested.

A community education program would be able to help control speed issues up to a certain speed. If people are traveling faster, it's up to law enforcement.

The committee asked for the Forum's feedback on a public information campaign that will get underway as soon as possible, given that vacationers are coming into town. Three signs/bumper sticker proposals were presented:

- Love Our Town: Slow Down Glen Ellen
- Savor Our Town: Slow Down Glen Ellen
- Give Us A Break: Slow Down

Once chosen, the slogan could be used on bumper stickers and yard signs purchased at cost. The different designs were voted on at end of the meeting, with the final tally to be presented later.

Community Projects Committee: BJ Blanchard

BJ Introduced Mare Dickerson, who provided an update on the Earth Day town clean-up event. About 20 people participated; the group found among 20 bags of trash, \$8 and a gun "that wasn't real."

Elisa Stancil provided an update on upgrades to the Post Office and neighboring buildings, which will be painted by the end of July. Upgrades to the parking lot are also in the works. All improvements will be completed prior to the Glen Ellen Village Fair in October.

Advisory Committee: Arthur Dawson

Members of most committees met to discuss plans for moving forward with forming the Advisory Committee. The group still needs to develop a plan to facilitate coordination with the Forum Steering Committee, the Forum at large, and the nonprofit. The Advisory Committee will act as a conduit to the county. There is also a need to establish the priorities of the Forum.

General Update: Marty Winter

Property owner Marty Winter, with wife Barbara, provided an update on plans for his redevelopment project at the corner of Carquinez Avenue and Arnold Drive. He provided photos of the historic Roma Hotel, a two-story structure that once stood on the site, and renderings of the new structure, also two stories and of a design inspired by the historic building. Details included:

- Eight apartments, intended as long-term residences, would be on the second story of the wood-sided buildings, and four retail spaces on the ground level.
- Off-street parking (34 spaces) and public gardens would be provided.
- The building Talisman Wine and Opalesce Goldsmith inhabit and a cottage on Carquinez Avenue would undergo historic restoration.
- The Glen Ellen design guidelines were followed.

- The project is awaiting design review from the county; then must go through the Advisory Committee meeting process.

Winter will provide electronic copies of the plans for posting on the Forum website.

Feedback from members of the Forum included enhancing the structure's exterior design to have a more historic quality.

General Update: Michael Furlong

Michael addressed the following items

- A member has offered to sponsor a Post Office Box for the Forum
- Liability insurance for the organization has been quoted as between \$500 and \$800 per year. Once the organization becomes nonprofit, it will attract a better rate.
- The group is looking for a volunteer lawyer with some expertise to check over applications for nonprofit status.

New Committee: Michael Furlong

Michael proposed establishing a new Social & Community Committee, which would promote the Forum as a community building entity. The committee could plan a twice-yearly community dinner, and work on promoting the Forum, getting the word out on social media, fundraising, and maintaining the website.

Other Business: Michael Furlong

Michael suggested additional ideas for promoting the Forum including

- Participating in the open house at Morton's Warm Springs
- Having a table at the upcoming Mother's Day breakfast at the Glen Ellen Fire Department.
- A contest for the best photo or idea for a logo for the Glen Ellen Forum
- Running ads in the local papers
- Sending a postcard mailing to the 95442 zip code

Leslie Vaughn reminded attendees about the donation container at the back of the room, as the Forum has no funding yet and any and all amounts of donation are greatly appreciated.

The floor was opened for questions and comments:

- Mare Dickerson (Community Project Committee) asked how the Forum felt about bringing mobile showers for the homeless to Glen Ellen on Saturday mornings after the Shower Ministry unit leaves their Sonoma location. The committee proposes a three-month trial and will look into getting a speaker from the shower ministry to come and talk about what that would entail (<https://www.srmission.org/~redwoodmission/mobile-ministries>).

Future Meetings:

The next Forum meeting is set for Monday, June 5. The Sonoma Land Trust will make a presentation on open space proposals for the Eldridge/SDC property. Committee updates will also be provided. Dunbar School's Multipurpose Room will not be available during July and

August while school is out for the summer. There will be no Forum meeting in July. Mayflower Hall at the Glen Ellen Community Church is being considered for the August 7th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Attendees

Maud Hallin
Nancy Newton
Martin Watkinson
Leslie Vaughn
Janie Soto
Ellen McKnight
Elisa Stancil
BJ Blanchard
Margie Foster
Ben Compton
Diana Sanson
Val Robichaud
Anne Teller
Joyce Clover
Melissa Dowling
Mary Guerrazzi
Carrie Castro
Jim Shere
Martin Rich
Amanda Lorren
Mary Kate Carter
Michael Furlong
Deanna Furlong
Archie Horton
Marge Everidge
Marty Winter
Barbara Winter
Tracy Salcedo
Michael Wray
Vicki Hill
Stacey Vilas
Alice Horowitz
Arthur Dawson
Mare Dickerson